

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARC

"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"

Volume XV No.01

January 1998



Happy New Year



1998 Club Resolutions

In the spirit of the season your favorite newsletter has compiled a club members Top 10 list of New Year resolutions for 1998.

10. Get new controller working
9. Get more people involved with June Field Day
8. Develop more General Class operators
7. Install 6 & 80 Meter antennas for EOC radios
6. Use portable tower/trailer for RACES exercises
5. Schedule RACES exercises
4. Get Club shirts, hats and jackets made
3. Apply for and make WA9RDF the club call sign
2. Improve general coverage of club repeater
1. Have Rick Reneau finally pass his 20 Wpm code test so he's not taking up value space in the code test room



Ed Woods-WD9DVA is caught on camera by WISH-TV News while making Christmas HF phone patches from airborne military personnel to their stateside families.

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SPARK GAP

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Membership Information

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is a Franklin Based organization open to all Amateur Radio operators in central Indiana.

The MARC meets the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, In.

The MARC operates a 2-meter repeater at 146.835 Mhz. Each club member has free access to the repeater and autopatch.

Annual dues are \$18.00. VE Testing follows each meeting from March through November.

Submit stories to the editor on disk or via e-mail by the 3rd of each month.

Send change-of-address info and membership application to the club treasurer @ MARC, P.O. Box 836, Franklin, In. 46131.

The Spark Gap is published monthly by the Mid-State ARC.



CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Rick Reneau, KB9NDF

H. 780-1803

Vice President:

George Weimer, N9GW

H. 882-5081

Secretary:

Marilyn Parton, N9TUK

H. 535-9910

Treasurer/ARES:

Vernon Gill, N9QBO

H. 738-4575

RACES Director:

Richard Jasinski, KB9LJM

H. 889-8962

Repeater Trustee:

Dave Julian, WB9YIG

H. 887-9504

Activities:

Jack Parker, W8ISH

H. 881-0817

VE Team Coordinator:

Dave Wendt, KA9OOH

H. 974-1488

CYBERSPACE

Club Packet Station KB9LOC

Location: Johnson County EOC Amateur Radio Room

Frequency: 145.63 MHz

Purpose: To read and leave e-mail for club members

To be used for Health and Welfare traffic in emergencies

Can be used as Digipeter into WW9A and other packet nodes

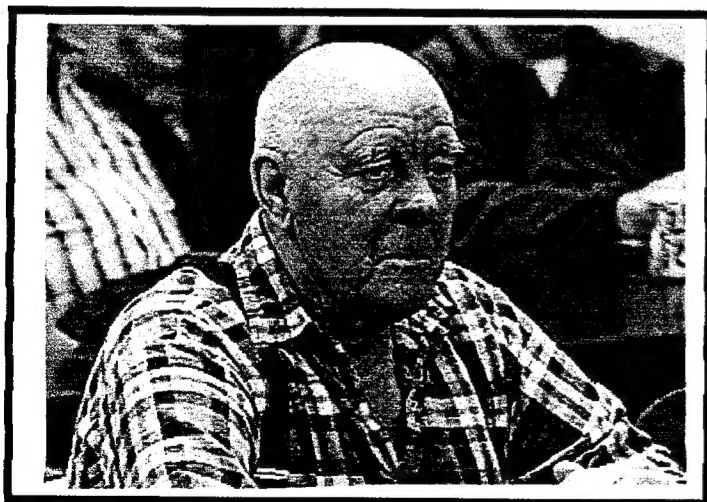
Connect: Type KB9LOC-1 or EOCMBX or JOCO

Novice Class Slated

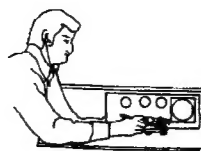
With the new year comes the anticipated opportunity to develop new amateur radio operators for central Indiana. Beginning at 7 PM Monday ~~February 23rd~~ 3/2 the Mid-State ARC will conduct it's yearly Novice/Tech class at the EOC. Chief instructor Dave Wendt-KA9OOH will kick the class off with a presentation of what a "real" ham radio operator looks and sounds like. Dave has asked that as many club members as possible attend the first class session to be introduced and to help with general organization.

As in the past Morse code will be taught to those who wish to study for their Tech-plus ticket. The classes are expected to run from eight to ten weeks. Prospective hams can sign up for the class by calling Dave Wendt at 974-1488. The class is free. All students are advised to purchase the "Now You're Talking" workbook for the class. -MARC

Don't forget your 1998 Dues



Everything you needed to know about antennas and were afraid to ask will be addressed at the January 17th meeting. One of our newer members, Scottie Mulliken-W9DMO will talk about antennas and answer questions you might have.



Ham Radio History

In a whimsical mood, here's a lighthearted look at ham radio history. The original version of this was posted on the Contest Reflector a few months back.

* 4 Billion BC--Earth is a swirling ball of flames. Propagation is extremely poor.

* 1 Billion BC--First dry land appears. It is divided up into grid squares.

* 500 Million BC--Second patch of dry land appears. First DXpedition; DXCC credit disallowed because of questionable licensing agreement.

* 400 Million BC--Flowering plants and grasses evolve. Rotary beam invented, but sales stall for lack of suitable mounting structures.

* 300 Million BC--First tree appears and is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in a concrete base and called a telephone pole. Beam sales pick up.

* 200 Million BC--More beams sold. Installer falls from top of pole. Safety belt is invented.

* 100 Million BC--First mountain appears. The repeater is invented.

* 50 Million BC--CQ is adopted.

* 4 Million BC--Humans replace swine as dominant species. The name ham operator hangs on, however.

* 3 Million BC--Dugout canoe invented. Maritime Mobile Net formed on 14.313 MHz.

* 2 Million BC to 800 AD--Nothing much happens for a long time.

* 900 AD--Chinese invent gunpowder. BY1AA is first "Big Gun" DXer.

* 1790 AD--Ben Franklin invents long wire receiving antenna. Ground switch invented.

* 1961 AD--Second repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First repeater coordinator appointed.

* 1997 AD--Amateur Radio humor sinks to a new low.

1998ARRL Newsletter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY January

Jesse Vergara	KB9NZZ	1/3
Dennis Parton	KB9HPQ	1/3
Larry Wraley	N9YQQ	1/3
George Weimer	N9GW	1/3
Dan O'Connell	K9VQI	1/9
Bill Brinkmann	AA9UV	1/10
JR Osborne	KB9HSE	1/14
Joe Lenges	KA9SWI	1/15
Louis Beam	N9VKH	1/16
Paul Easley	KA9KAI	1/20
Keith Cohoon	K9PDI	1/22
Vernon Gill	N9QBO	1/29
Rick Matlock	KB9KQE	1/30
Ed Condor	N9IZN	1/30



Field Day '98

Field Day '98 will be held in the Princess Lakes Town Hall. According to JR Osborne-KB9HSE the facility is air conditioned, roomy, has electric, toilets and comes free for the asking. The portable tower/trailer will be moved to the site for the June 27 & 28 event. Several members recommended we ask Ed's Crane Service to supply a crane to mount the HF antennas on. Plans are to make this a local community event and spread the word about Amateur Radio. Further details will be published as we move closer to Field Day '98.

Masonic Home Christmas

Christmas was made a little brighter at the Masonic Home thanks to the efforts of several Mid-State ARC members. Following the December meeting Marilyn Parton-N9TUK, Vernie Parton-AA9LR, Bob Doles-WB9AYB and Ed Woods-WD9DVA made a special trip to the Franklin retirement home to collect the Christmas messages. Over one hundred holiday messages were collected and transmitted around the world via amateur radio. According to Marilyn a service man in Germany gets the award for the furthest sent message. She said many of the messages were sent to friends and relatives as close as Indianapolis. Near or far the response is the same, everyone is pleased to receive a little holiday cheer via ham radio. Vernie, Bob and Ed sent most of the messages via HF radio. Walt Howard-N9FWF helped disseminate the message forms at the Masonic Home. "It was an enjoyable thing," Marilyn says, "and I look forward to collecting them next year." This was the 13th year MARC has collected and transmitted holiday messages from the Masonic Home. -MARC

Remember When

Spark Gap, January 1993 Mac McCarty-NV9K editor

■ Under threatening rain clouds the crew of the Tievoli entered Burnt Store Harbour near Punta Gorda, Florida and stepped onto American soil for the first time since October 3, 1992. The Tievoli captained by Ralph Talbott-N9RNI set sail in America 500 last October with two other MARC members as crew. Eric Sluder-KB9BGS and Jack Parker-NT9J traveled over 1000 miles from Puerto Sherry, Spain to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

■ On Monday January 11th an organizational meeting for RACES was held in the EOC meeting room. Bob DeSpain-WB5VZT discussed plans for reorganizing the local group. Present plans call for updating the present membership list and issuing new identification badges to each member.

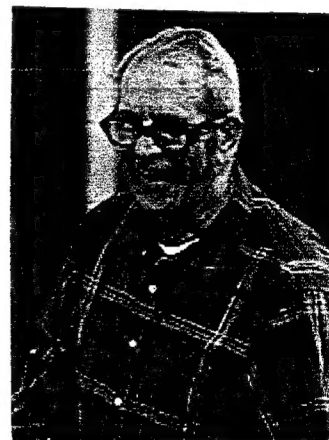
■ From the QIN "key": Homer-WB9OZZ, had been off the air for quite a bit due to rig problems. He's back now and going strong!

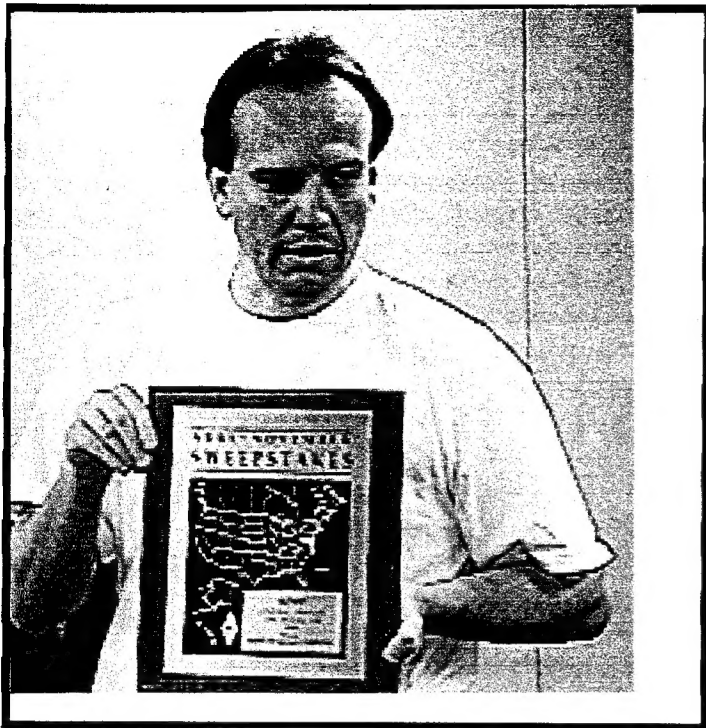
■ The Packet BBS is now operational in the club room at the EOC. The unit will be used for official RACES communications and as an information and communications hub for members of the club.



Christmas Party 1997

Many club members were surprised when MARC president Rick Reneau-KB9NDF presented them with special year-end awards. Bob LeGrange-N9SIU, a State Emergency Management employee got the "What Emergency?" award. Tom Achors-KB9RBB, received the "Radio Active" award for his many hours talking on the club repeater. Paul Easley-KA9KAI, was presented the "Traveled Farthest to Attend a Meeting" award. Paul returned home for Christmas from his missionary home in Guatemala, 3000 miles away. Many other members received (tongue-in-cheek) awards for their club efforts in 1997. This photo page captures some of the fun and excitement of the Awards Ceremony. -MARC





Top HF contester *Greg Clark-K9IG* shows his ARRL Sweepstakes award while talking about working DX with club members during the December meeting.

Red Cross Volunteer courses offered

Help Can't Wait, the current recruiting theme of the American Red Cross, is indicative of the ever growing need for trained Red Cross volunteers. All Johnson County Amateur Radio operators are invited to take disaster training courses this spring. The courses are free to Red Cross volunteers and begin Thursday January 22 with the Damage



Assessment #1 course. All training sessions are being held at the Indianapolis Chapter house at 441 East 10th Street. Classes begin at 6 PM. The series of courses cover shelter operations, public affairs, emergency assistance and emergency response vehicle (ERV) training. A one hour prerequisite "Intro to Disaster/ARC Orientation" class will be held for RACES members and other interested hams following the January 17th club meeting in the Johnson County EOC. To register for courses call 317-684-4322.

Radio legend dismantled



Ham visitors to Ohio--perhaps on their way to the Dayton Hamvention--sometimes found it hard to keep their eyes on the highway when passing the Voice of America's Bethany Relay Station. The vast antenna farm off I-75 north of Cincinnati consisting of 14 rhombics and a huge Sterba curtain easily distracted most hams.

OHIO VOA ANTENNAS COME DOWN

At one time among the most powerful shortwave stations in the world, the Bethany Relay Station was shut down a couple of years ago. The towers supporting the majestic Sterba curtain and other wire arrays came crashing down in early December--to make way for commercial and recreational development and a university campus on the 625-acre site. Among those on hand to watch the spectacle was Tom Rupp, W8TCR, a VOA engineer for 26 years who retired in 1993.

Work will continue to remove the other towers and structures.

Most of the towers will be pulled from the ground with a crane. Forty towers, ranging from 90 to 150 feet tall, will be salvaged. Crews will finish clearing the towers by February.

A report in the Cincinnati Enquirer quoted ham radio operator Joe Goforth, WB8NFJ, who lived less than a mile from the VOA site for two decades. "I used to talk to the engineers all the time," he told the paper, noting that VOA broadcasts sometimes interfered with his ham gear. "But I guess I'm a little disappointed to see it go," he added. -ARRL Newsletter

Navy Fax QRT



The Navy HF facsimile broadcast, designed to support US Naval operations in the Atlantic, ceased at year's end since fleet units have migrated to other communication systems. The Navy HF Fleet Broadcast ended 24-hour continuous operation beginning January 1, 1998.

This system will be placed in a back-up mode for on-demand service to be activated by fleet units upon request. --Patrick A. Dixon -ARRL Newsletter

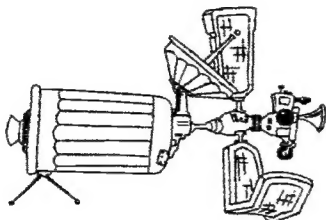
Sputnik PS2 keeps going and going

More than ten weeks after its launch by hand from the Mir space station, the mini-Sputnik PS2 satellite beacon transmitter continues to beep away--the orbiting equivalent of the Energizer Bunny. Powered by just over three pounds of lithium batteries, the spacecraft's transmitter, on 145.82 MHz has been heard around the world and already has functioned longer than the original Sputnik 1 satellite did 40 years ago.

The Sputnik 40 Years project that led to the construction and launch of the satellite has been funded by private donations, and the program's sponsors say they "still have some small debts to pay." The

satellite itself was built by students in Russia, while another group of students on France's Reunion Island built the transmitter.

A film and a book are in preparation, and Sputnik 40 Years expects to make presentations about the project at many national and international meetings, including the annual dinner of Aero-Club de France. Guy Pignolet, secretary of the Aero-Club of France and an engineer with the French Space Agency said the project would very much like to have US companies or even individuals "share the adventure." Requests will be processed after the satellite has expired. For more information, see <http://www.oceanes.fr/~fr5fc/spoutnik.html>. -ARRL



You too can be a General

Club Prez Rick Reneau-KB9NDF, is developing an up grade class. Students and instructors are needed to make this happen. General Class rules, regulations, theory and code will be taught. Contact Rick or any of the club officers if your are interested. Their names and numbers can be found on page two of this newsletter. -MARC

Phase 3D needs space bucks

Conceding that it still needs another \$270,000 to meet its share of the costs for the Phase 3D campaign, AMSAT-NA is once again soliciting donations to its Phase 3D Fund. A solicitation went out late last month over the signature of AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO. The letter expresses optimism that Phase 3D can be launched "before mid-1998, perhaps even within 6 months." AMSAT is asking its members to kick in another \$100 each, if possible. "I think you will agree that this is a small price to pay for the many hours of pleasure we will all receive when Phase 3D becomes operational," Tynan's appeal says. Phase 3D was bumped from the Ariane 502 flight last fall after it could not complete necessary structural modifications in time to meet the launch schedule. Tynan points out in his letter that the additional time has been put to good use. Phase 3D now will offer two S-band transmitters, each with a separate antenna. The integration team also is looking at ways to ensure maintenance of proper temperatures within the spacecraft. Contributions in any amount are welcome to AMSAT-NA Phase 3D Fund, 850 Sligo Ave, Suite 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4703. Contributions are tax deductible.

ELMER

BY
RICH
REGENT
K9GDF

